



DID GOD CALL THE PASTOR?

STORMY SCENES AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Trampling Upon The Right of The Members. A Ringing Appeal. Law Laid.

THE VOTE NOT UNANIMOUS.—THE ATTEMPT TO SET THE SALARY. DEFEATED BY THE RULE OF THE CHURCH.

EIGHTY-TWO ATTEMPT TO RULE 2400. A PLEA FOR HARMONY.

The regular meeting of the First Baptist Church last Monday night was one of the most stormy ever seen in this city. Deacons who have grown gray in the service of the church shook their heads with the ever present reminder, "I told you so."

Eighty-two persons out of a total membership of 2500 voted to pay the newly called divine \$1000 per annum over the bitter protests of those who constituted the minority. At times a personal encounter seemed imminent between Deacon Harrison Smith and Rev. Dr. J. E. Jones, the latter charging that the speaker had trampled upon his (Jones) rights.

He would not accept the result was that the deacon requested to apologize both to the body and to Dr. Jones. He did this gracefully and then wanted to continue the debate.

THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE.

The causes which have led to this deplorable state of affairs in this church dates back about four months, when a committee of 15, together with the board of deacons were appointed to bring in a name or names for the pastorate of the church. It was about 3 o'clock in the morning before Deacon J. C. Farley succeeded in having Dr. Brooks' name placed there.

Upon a review of the vote, it was found that two-thirds of the deacon board favored this distinguished pulpit orator, who was one of the members of the First Baptist Church. This caused the opposition to go to work and in a way that astonished the oldest members of the church. Male and female canvassers went from door to door declaring the virtues of Rev. W. T. Johnson, and in many cases belittling the merits of Rev. Dr. Brooks. This was further aggravated by the open declaration of Mr. Henry G. Carter that he had 147 members of Clubs and the C. E. Society and 59 Sunday-School teachers pledged to support Rev. Johnson. He later declared that they had over 300 persons pledged.

WHETHER MAN OR GOD CALLED.

As it was presumed that the pastor was to be the "God-called" and not "man-called," the effect of this declaration was electrical and led Deacon J. C. Farley to publish the now famous letter in the PLANET, entitled "Why Call Dr. Brooks?"

The deacon board seeing that trouble was imminent decided that Deacon Thornton Wyatt, one of the most conservative of all them should call the meeting to order and have the body to elect its own chairman.

Monday night, June 3rd, was long to be remembered. The rain fell in torrents. There were only slight intermissions.

Despite all of this the females came out in full force and it was found out that the hostessings of the Johnson supporters were realized for at least 300 filed to one side of the church.

THE RAIN FELL.

The rain tended to diminish the attendance of the members who were untrammelled and they were slow gathering. There was suddenly a commotion in one of the front seats when, Rev. Watkins, who was a guard at the penitentiary during the Readjuster rule and is now a canvasser for the True Reformers and declared that it was time to call the meeting to order. He suggested that Brother R. T. Hill take the chair, and proceeded to take the vote without asking, "Are you ready?"

In the meantime Deacon Thornton Wyatt was an interested observer. There was a wave of approval among the organized clubs and they yelled a loud cry.

John Mitchell, Jr. was on his feet in an instant protesting against such proceedings. He insisted that no chairman should be installed in any such manner. Then came the jeers, the hootings, the cries of "sit down!"

DEACON FARLEY EXPLAINS.

In the midst of this, Deacon J. C. Far-

ley was vainly endeavoring to be heard, while Chairman Thornton Wyatt was endeavoring to secure order. He too was jeered. Finally he was able to state that Deacon Wyatt was only there to take the sense of the house as to who should be its chairman. This did not satisfy the crowd which became worse and worse. Females interrupted the speakers as did the males. When a word was spoken for Johnson, it was all-right. To speak for Brooks was all-wrong according to the vent they gave to their disapproval.

W. S. Selden moved to suspend the deacons and Clerk Vandervall stated the question properly. Upon the call of "Are you ready for the question?" John Mitchell, Jr. obtained the floor and declared that the meeting was a disgrace to the Christian religion. He had never been treated with such discourtesy, not even by his political enemies during the stormiest days of politics.

AGAIN INTERRUPTED.

During his remarks, a Johnson supporter and a female, interrupted him by telling him to sit down. This called for a telling rebuke from Rev. R. Beecher Taylor, who declared that he wouldn't submit to such conduct from his own wife. He thought the speaker should be permitted to proceed without interruption.

One Johnson supporter offered to put the speaker out and cries of Johnson! Johnson! were heard.

Mitchell calmly waited for order and declared to the chair that he would not speak until he secured it. He could not be howled down. He had the floor, he treated the chair and the body with consideration and he demanded the same favor.

He insisted that each speaker be permitted to proceed without interruption. If any one disagreed, when he was through, they could reply to him and he would promise that they would not be interrupted. In spite of this, Rev. Thomas H. Briggs, Rev. Wm. Cousins, Rev. Watkins arose to points of order and the speaker waited patiently while they stated them. The crowd on the other side yelled and the confusion reigned.

DECLINED TO PROCEED.

The speaker declined to proceed but held the floor declaring he would not speak until he obtained order. If this were not given he would stay there, if need be until 6 o'clock in the morning.

Seeing that he meant what he said, the Johnson leaders finally calmed their supporters and Editor Mitchell proceeded to discuss the motion. Rev. Thomas H. White spoke and denounced the proceedings. The vote resulted in the negative.

Then Deacon Wilder came forward and announced that a motion had been made that R. T. Hill take the chair, he proceeded to put the vote without asking, "Are you ready for the question?"

Result was received with a shout from the Johnson supporters, and Mr. R. T. Hill proceeded to the chair.

The routine business of the church was transacted and then after the granting of the hand of fellowship to a member, the report of the committee on pastorate was read by Deacon Geo. W. Lewis and it was received. It recommended to the church the names of Rev. A. W. Pegues, Rev. Walter H. Brooks, D. D., and Rev. W. T. Johnson, B. D.

WANTED NO ILL FEELING.

The report was received and then adopted. Editor Mitchell moved that the candidates be balloted for until one received a majority of all the votes cast. In order that satisfaction be given and that there should be no cause for ill feeling, he suggested this course. Rev. R. Beecher Taylor offered a substitute to drop the lowest candidate and it was carried.

Editor Mitchell reminded the chairman that this was virtually amending the committee's report after it had been adopted and accordingly was out of order and should not be done, but he would not press the point.

A suggestion was made by Mitchell that time be allowed for the eulogy of candidates and Deacon W. T. White made a motion to that effect. There was a storm of "noes" and cries of "vote!"

In vain did the speakers declare this to be gag-rule, that the proceedings were

disgraceful, that the mob-spirit was transcendent.

IT WOULDN'T DO.

Finally Chairman Hill, seeming to be convinced that it would not do, so initiated and the Lieutenants acted and Rev. Taylor's motion prevailed, allowing only five minutes each to two speakers for each candidate. This was viewed with disgust as in the Baptist Church a pastor holds office during good behavior, which may be lengthened into a life time.

Deacon James Wilder offered a letter in behalf of Rev. Pegues, and Prof. S. N. Vass spoke in favor, while Rev. R. Beecher Taylor and Rev. D. Webster Davis, A. M., spoke in favor of Rev. Dr. Walter H. Brooks.

REV. DAVIS EMPHATIC.

Rev. Davis made one of the most impassioned appeals ever heard in the First Baptist Church. He scathingly denounced the conduct of some of those present and charged them with the basest treachery in their attack upon one of the most distinguished pulpit orators ever sent out from the First Baptist Church.

Rev. J. E. Jones, D. D., spoke in the interest of Rev. W. T. Johnson, paying him a glowing tribute and declaring him to be a young man of sterling qualities. His remarks were greeted with applause.

Rev. R. J. Bass spoke.

The vote for Rev. A. W. Pegues was 19; Rev. W. H. Brooks, D. D., 181; Rev. W. T. Johnson, B. D., 399. The chair declared Rev. Johnson elected.

There was the wildest confusion, children from eight years of age upwards yelled, handkerchiefs were waved and pandemonium reigned.

As soon as order could be partially secured, Editor Mitchell arose and declared that he had fought a good fight but finished his course and kept the faith.

CONDUCT DISGRACEFUL.

He declared that the course of certain females had been disgraceful, but so far he was personally concerned, he believed they "knew not what they did." He forgave them. He was of the same opinion—that the people there had made a mistake.

He was confident that they would see their error, but to show that he had no personal feeling in the matter, he would move to make it unanimous. The motion was seconded and the question put. Numbers of the supporters of Rev. Dr. Brooks refused to vote to make it unanimous and the gaps where they sat could be seen. The chairman declared it "carried."

The fact was overlooked that a motion to make unanimous must be voted for by everybody and a failure of any one so to do defeats the motion. So Rev. W. T. Johnson was not unanimously called to the pastorate although it was so recorded.

The meeting adjourned.

THE OTHER MEETING.

As in the previous church meeting only 559 persons out of 2500 were present, and only 369 voted for Rev. W. T. Johnson, so in the one held last Monday night the small number in attendance was a noticeable feature. It seemed that many of the supporters of both Johnson and Brooks had become disgusted and remained away. There was only one member in the church at 8 o'clock and it was near 9 o'clock before Deacon R. T. Hill called Deacon James Wilder to the chair. Clerk B. P. Vandervall read the minutes. A motion was made to receive and adopt. Brother H. F. Jonathan objected and declared that they should not, (and he named him) of a sister church had said that he labored for Johnson and had added 50 votes to the number who supported him. He claimed that a certain organization, (and he named it) had been used in his interest. He said he was ready to prove all that he had said.

A threat had been made to remove the deacons.

THE CRY RAISED.

He charged that the cry had been that Brooks was opposed to cooperation. He said that a brother in that church (and he named him) had canvassed for Johnson, and that another brother (and named him) not a member of the church had adjourned a meeting of an organization in order that the members might come up and vote for Johnson.

During these remarks, Rev. Thomas H. Briggs, Robert Watkins, Henry G.

Carter, were rising to points of order but Brother Jonathan was indignant and he spoke right along.

He declared that it had also been circulated that Brooks was opposed to the factory people. He declared that the minutes were not correct and should not be adopted. He said he had many other reasons why the minutes should not be adopted and was about to give them when he was ruled down by the chair, who proceeded to put the vote despite the fact that Brother Richard Carter and no one else was claiming his attention.

A PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY.

This caused Brother John Mitchell, Jr. to rise to a parliamentary enquiry. He called the attention of the chairman to the fact that the church had not ordered the pending question and that therefore the chairman had no right to put the vote while a brother was on the floor demanding to be heard. He wanted to know whether the chairman proposed to continue this kind of ruling, whether he intended to continue to put the question without asking "are you ready for the question?"

It had been done on the last church meeting and he protested against it.

Then arose Brother Briggs to a point of order. Mitchell continued to demand the ruling of the chair. While admitting that he had done as Brother Mitchell charged, Chairman Wilder said the speaker could appeal.

Mitchell urged that he must have his ruling before he could have anything on which to base an appeal. After a ringing protest, the chairman ruled that the report of deaths was now in order.

Then, Clerk B. P. Vandervall read a letter from Rev. W. T. Johnson, B. D. It was as follows:

REV. JOHNSON'S LETTER.

LEXINGTON, VA., June 7, 1901.

To The First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va.:

Dear Brethren and Sisters:—

Your letter notifying me of the unanimous call to the pastorate of your church is now before me. Permit me to say to you, that I have the call under prayerful consideration. Whatever be the promptings and leadings of the Holy Spirit, I shall be my course to pursue.

TO PRAY AS DID MOSES.

I feel to pray as did Moses on one occasion, "Lord suffer one not to go up hence unless thy presence go with me."

The work of the church of God is superior to all other work and consequently I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit should influence the decision of God's called servants in the performance of all duties involved on the account of said work.

HOPES IT DID.

I truly hope that the Holy Spirit actuated you in unanimously extending to me the call to pastor of your church. I have no fear whatever of placing this matter in God's hand and abiding his decision.

Well do I remember that God's word teaches us, "Without Christ we can do nothing, but with Christ we can do all things."

Now, I request that you would pray that the Lord will guide me in making the decision in this all important matter.

A QUESTION OF FUNDS.

I take for granted that you will amply provide for your Shepherd, although you did not say in your letter of June 4, 1901.

Trusting to hear from you soon, I am, Your servant in Christ Jesus,

W. T. JOHNSON.

P. S. I will have to give my people here three months notice should I come. So you see how important it is for me to hear from you.

W. T. J.

Deacon Harrison Smith desired to know by what authority Rev. Johnson had been notified. He observed that after the church meeting and the church had not authorized any one to send such notification. It was finally disclosed that the clerk had sent it by the direction of Chairman R. T. Hill. Deacon Smith entered his protest.

Rev. Dr. J. E. Jones stated that in order to get the letter properly before the church that he moved that it be received for consideration. This was carried. Upon this, Editor Mitchell objected the floor. He declared the letter to be remarkable in many particulars. He referred to its Godly spirit and asked if the news of the disgraceful proceedings at the other church meeting had not reached Lexington, Va.

Brother T. H. Briggs objected. He insisted that Brother Mitchell confine himself to the letter. Mitchell proceeded and was interrupted by Robert Watkins, who was guard at the Virginia Penitentiary during Readjuster rule, and by Henry G. Carter and by some of the females.

WANTED ORDER.

He demanded that he be given order and declared he would not proceed unless he secured it. Editor Mitchell stated that objections had been made to his not confining himself to the letter, and now he was being interrupted by these people, although he was reading extracts from the letter of the minister, whom they had called as pastor. They could not stand sound doctrine. He (Mitchell) had been a member of the First Baptist Church for 25 years and this was the second time that he had ever arose to say anything in a church-meeting, although the church records show

THE CONVENTION STILL HERE.

Many Resolutions Offered. Nothing As Yet Accomplished.

Worrying Over the Negro. Trying to Evade the National Law.

The Constitutional Convention is as yet in session presumably although it has adjourned for one week. Saturday, June 23, prayer was offered by Rev. E. C. Gordon, D. D.

Mr. Kezwell submitted resolutions which were referred to the Committee on Taxation. Mr. Pollard offered resolutions to be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It related to bribery and provided for its punishment.

Mr. Boaz submitted a resolution to be referred to the Committee on taxation, providing that county treasurers shall not be eligible to reelection for the ensuing year.

THE QUESTION OF SUFFRAGE.

Mr. Meredith offered resolutions on the election franchise, the judiciary and the school fund. The one on the election franchise provided that no person shall vote who can not read any section of the Constitution of Virginia or hasn't honora- bly served in the army and navy of the Confederate States from April 17th '61 to May 1st, '65, or in the army and navy of the United States in time of war or paid on or before the first of February of the year which he shall offer to vote, all state poll-taxes charged or assessed against him by this Constitution, or after it shall go into effect. The amount of poll-tax is to be \$3.00.

It gives to the legislature the power, within the next five years to qualify as voter, the sons of any person who shall have served in the army or navy of the Confederate States or of the United States from 1861 to 1865, and if once so qualified, the legislature shall have no power to withdraw such qualification.

It provides also for viva-voce voting and for the punishment for bribery.

Mr. Quarles offered a resolution which was referred to the Committee on Corporations and also one to elect school superintendents by the people.

Mr. Hatton submitted a resolution to the Committee on Elective Franchise that no judge shall practice his profession or hold any other office, and also one in favor of voting by the living voice.

AFTER THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Mr. McIlwaine submitted a resolution to the Committee on Elective Franchise. It provides for a vote by the living voice and that the citizen shall be able to read and write and have paid his taxes and also a \$3.00 poll-tax. No person who has served in the army and navy of Virginia or of the United States or of any state thereof shall be debarred from voting.

Mr. Davis referred a resolution to the Committee on Taxation and Finance providing that it was wrong to be taxed to support a Government without the right to vote under that Government and that the taxation of any of the people of Virginia without allowing them the right to vote is no less tyranny now than it was when Patrick Henry said so in 1776.

FROM MANCHESTER.

The marriage of Miss Lillie R. Hickman to Mr. Wm. E. Lewis on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock June 26th, was a brilliant affair and it was conceded by many to be the finest marriage ever taken place in the First Baptist Church of this city. Dr. Binga performed the ceremony in his usual solemn manner. Mr. O. Henry Jones presided at the organ. The ushers of honor were Bertha E. Hughes, Winnie S. Blackwell, Sallie E. Ham, Lillie Berthel. King and Martha Ann Gray were flower girls. Ushers, Chas. Walthall, Chas. Armstrong and W. M. Pryor.

After the ceremony the contracting parties left on the 12 o'clock train for Washington. The presents were numerous and costly.

Mrs. Laura G. King and her daughter, Bertha, left the city (Manchester, Va.) last Wednesday morning to visit Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. The funeral of Rev. A. Binga, Sr., took place from the First Baptist Church, Sunday morning, Rev. Wm. Troy officiating.

REDE-CALE is a sure cure for Sore Eyes, Catarrh, Chronic Diseases. I can furnish certificates of total blindness having been cured in Wilkesbarre, Pa., and Nashville, Tenn. A perfect cure is guaranteed by

L. J. BOUJASSON, 712 E. Broad St., Richmond, Va.

LYNCHING IN VIRGINIA.

LAWRENCEVILLE, VA., July 1.—(Special).—A lynching for an alleged attempt to commit the "usual crime" was the fate of Joseph Walton, a colored man recently arrested in this county.

He was taken from the county jail Sunday night by a crowd of about fifty men, carried four miles to Gholsville Bridge, and then hanged.

THE JAILER'S STATEMENT.

C. I. Mitchell, the jailer, was forced to deliver the prison keys to the mob. He describes the affair as follows: "Between 12 and 1 o'clock some men knocked at my front door, and aroused me. I went to the door, and opening it, saw about fifty masked men.

As soon as the door was opened some one asked me for the jail keys.

"Upon my inquiring what they wanted with them, several replied, 'It is none of your business. The sooner you get them the better for you.'"

GUNS AND PISTOLS.

"All carried pistols or guns, except two. They made me go to my room and get the keys."

Leaving a guard at Mr. Mitchell's house to prevent him from giving an alarm, the nocturnal visitors went to the jail, and finding the prisoner, tied his hands securely.

THE ROPE AROUND THE NECK.

After adjusting a rope about his neck, the men dragged him from his cell into the yard and out into the street.

Then fastening the rope around his neck to a jumper, they carried him to the bridge across the Meherrin river and hanged him. Death was caused from strangulation.

HANGED AT THE BRIDGE.

As soon as Mr. Mitchell was permitted to leave his house he went to the residence of Sheriff Turnbull, stated to him what had happened, and the officers immediately went in pursuit of the mob, but on reaching the river they found the dead body of the prisoner swinging from the bridge.

AN INQUEST WAS HELD TO-DAY, and the verdict of the jury was that Walton came to his death at the hands of an unknown mob.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

The crime for which Walton lost his life was committed last Thursday night near Triplett Post-Office, in the Southern portion of the county, and the evidence against him was mostly circumstantial.

He was employed by Mr. J. H. Clarke and slept on a pallet in the room occupied by his sons.

THE GIRL SCREAMED.

He was in the room at 12 o'clock on Thursday night, and at 2 when the screams of Miss Clarke aroused the household, he was absent and found some time later in the woods nearby.

Tracks leading from the window were found to correspond with his.

Miss Clarke was asleep when the man entered the room, but awoke when he took hold of her. Her screams frightened him off before she could identify him. She is a girl of only 16 years and remarkably pretty.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby tender my resignation as solicitor for the Colored American Magazine to take effect August 1, 1901.

Respectfully,

ANNA H. BROWN.

WANTED—The present P. O. address of John Crume, formerly of Co. C, 6th United States colored cavalry.

TABER & WHITEMAN, 6-22-4t, Washington, D. C.

"LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER."—A poem addressed to the lynchers of the Southern Negroes; 50c each, 50c per dozen. P. O. address,

LOUISA S. FULLER, 256 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, Cal.

—Miss Lucy C. Reide, of Unity Court, No. 182, left on the 19th instant, to spend the summer in Atlantic City, N. J.

MAMIE DELHOFFER AN IMPOSTOR.

Information has just been received in this city through a letter from Rev. Richard Carroll, of Columbia, S. C., that the woman calling herself Mamie Delhoffer, who is collecting money from the churches of this city, and claiming to represent the Industrial School and home, conducted at that place by Rev. Carroll is an impostor and a dangerous woman. Rev. Carroll says this woman is also known as Mary Hill. He says that some time ago she was taken into this home sick and kept until she recovered, but she has never been an inmate of his school, and that she or no one else has authority to collect for his institution. Rev. Carroll says that he has heard of this woman before in various places but has never been able to catch up with her. He says that she should be turned over to the city authorities.

STEREOPTICAN VIEWS

By Rev. Wm. Troy.

Patriotic lectures, life-like scenes of Uncle Tom and George Harris, Gen. Antonio Maceo, colored soldiers in Cuba and the late Civil War. Graphophone music to please all gatherings. Religious slides expressing the life of Christ and the revelation of John upon the Isle of Patmos. Churches and societies can be served with these scenes at reasonable rates by applying to

WM. TROY, At the PLANET Office. All applications will be promptly attended to. Care Hon. John Mitchell, Jr.

PRYOR—Died at her residence, 111 Pullman street, Tuesday, July 2, 1901, at 1:40, Mrs. Edith Pryor, widow of the late Fleming Pryor. She leaves a daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

Funeral took place from the First Baptist Church (colored) Thursday, July 4, 1901, at 3 o'clock.

BEAUTIFUL MARRIAGE.

The marriage of Miss Annie A. Johnson to Mr. W. C. Banks took place at the residence of Mrs. A. C. Brown, 1306 W. Leigh St., June 24, 1901, at 7:30 P. M. The parlors were brilliantly lighted and decorated with palms, carnations and roses.

At the hour appointed the maid of honor, Miss Susie M. Johnson entered on arm of the groom from the front, while the bride entered from the back on the arm of Mr. E. Wythe Taylor, the best man. She met between the folding doors where the ceremony was performed by Rev. R. Wells.

The bride wore white orquidity and the groom, the usual black. After the ceremony, a magnificent reception was tendered the bride and groom by Mrs. A. C. Brown.

At 9 A. M., they left on Pullman Sleeper for Roanoke, their future home. The presents were numerous and costly.

—Mr. H. C. Gilliam, 1216 W. Leigh St. is improving after being confined to his home for some time.

—Mrs. Julia Kendall is sick at her home 1323 Moore St.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews 808 N. 2nd St. is sick.

—J. H. Carraway of Wilmington N. C. called on us.

WEEK END RATES TO CLARKSVILLE, VA.

Effective June 15th and continuing each Saturday thereafter until Sept. 26th, 1901, the Southern Railway will sell special round trip tickets from Richmond, Danville, Keyville, Oxford, Henderson and all intermediate stations to Clarksville and return, at one fare for the round trip, tickets to be limited returning not later than Monday following date of sale.

C. W. Westbury, D. P. A.